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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,212	01/14/2002	Akemi Tsuyuki	020033	6185
38834	7590	01/10/2005	EXAMINER	
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			CHEN, TE Y	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2161

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/043,212	TSUYUKI, AKEMI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Susan Y Chen	2161	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 August 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-19, 28 and 29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 20-27 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

This office action is responsive to the Election of Restriction filed on August 19, 2004. Applicant has elected group 1 (claims 1-7 and 20-27) without traverse for prosecution. Claims 8-19 28 and 29 are withdrawn from prosecution.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicants may become aware in the specification.

Drawings

Applicant has filed informal drawings that are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-7 and 20-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wical (U.S. Patent No. 5940821).

As to claim 1, Wical discloses an associating information management system [e.g., 100, Fig. 1] for associating various types of information and for managing the information [e.g., Abstract, lines 1-12] comprising:

- a) a relationship management table for storing parent-child relationship in identification information of each type of information [e.g., the index table and the index/topic table of the knowledge base 155, Fig. 1, col. 30, lines 4-21]; and
- b) retrieval processing means [e.g., the learning processing 165, Fig. 1] for performing retrieval processing of various types of information from parent to child and from child to parent by association of the relationship management

table in the information and the scope as designated [e.g., col. 31, lines 26-51; Fig. 13 and associated texts].

As to claim 2, except the features recited in claim 1, Wical further discloses that various types of information are managed by a member management table where member data comprising said identification information and detailed information are stored [e.g., the document theme Vector table at col. 8, the knowledge base tables such as tables 2-5 at col. 15-16 and associated texts; col. 11, lines 62-64].

As to claim 3, except the features recited in claim 2, Wical further discloses that the detailed information comprises classification information for classifying the members [e.g., the category a-x of table 1 at col. 8].

As to claims 4-6, except the features recited in claim 3, Wical further discloses that classification information comprises type, rank, classification, and any source [e.g., col. 5, lines 52-55].

As to claim 7, except the features recited in claim 1, Wical further discloses that relationship management table comprises information of mutual associating direction [e.g., the link of the index/topic table, col. 30, lines 19-21], and degree of relationship [e.g., the theme strength of the Document Theme Vector table 1 at col. 8].

As to claim 20, Wical further discloses the information management system as claimed, comprising:

a) a relationship vector table for storing relationship of said various types of information, direction of said relationship, and position time series information [e.g., the document theme Vector table at col. 8, the knowledge base tables such as tables 2-5 at col. 15-16 and associated texts; col. 11, lines 62-64; the index table and the index/topic table of the knowledge base (155, Fig. 1), col. 30, lines 4-21]; and

b) retrieval processing means for performing retrieval processing for association based on the relationship stored in said relationship vector table, direction of said relationship and position time series information, and for performing output processing of the relationship map [e.g., the learning processing 165, Fig. 1; col. 31, lines 26-51; Fig. 13 and associated texts].

As to claim 21, except the features recited in claim 20, Wical further discloses that the information management system provided a relationship management table for storing parent-child relationship between said various types of information [e.g., the index table and the index/topic table of the knowledge base (155, Fig. 1), col. 30, lines 4-21], and said retrieval processing means outputs a relationship map to display transition of relationship along said position time series of said various types of information as said relationship map and also outputs a relationship pedigree displaying connection of said various

type of information in form of chains [e.g., Yahoo!™, col. 2, lines 27-32; Fig(s) 10A-10C and associated texts].

As to claims 22-27, these claims recited the same features as claims 2-7 and 21, hence are rejected for the same reason.

Conclusion

To expedite the process of re-examination, the examiner requests that all future correspondences in regard to overcoming prior art rejections or other issues (e.g. 35 U.S.C. 112) set forth by the Examiner prior to the office action, that applicant should provide and link to the most specific page and line numbers of the disclosure where best support is found (see 35 U.S.C. 132).

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- a) Conklin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,378) which discloses a query feedback terms ranking processing in an information retrieval system;
- b) Eaton (U.S. Patent No. 6,570,567) which discloses a system with method for applying a graphical user interface to allow clients interactively access a pedigree chart.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Y Chen whose telephone number is

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571-272-4016. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Susan Y Chen
Examiner
Art Unit 2161

January 5, 2005



SAFET METJAHIC
EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100